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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/153,838 09/15/98 WILS

P ST96016-US

005487 HM12/0418
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PATENTS DEPARTMENT
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EXAMINER

KETTER, J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1636
DATE MAILED:

04/18/01 16

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/153,838	WILS ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	James Ketter	1636

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2001.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-22, 25 and 26 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 1-22 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 25 and 26 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____

18) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____

19) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

20) Other: _____

Claims 1-22 stand allowed.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claims 25 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Woodard et al. (A), for reasons of record set forth in papers nos. 2, 6 and 12, mailed 23 November 1998, 17 August 1999 and 26 September 2000, respectively.

At the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 of the amendment filed 30 January 2001, through the last full paragraph at page 4, Applicants argue that Woodard et al. does not teach plasmid DNA prepared without the use of chaotropes, and thus it would not have been presumed that such DNA was free of chaotropes after the purification process. Applicants point to the use of NaClO₄ as a binding buffer in most of the examples in Woodard et al. Applicants also point to column 2, wherein Woodard et al. teaches that lower levels of chaotropes may be employed in the disclosed methods. However, at column 5, lines 57-62, Woodard et al. teaches that the DNA may be produced using no chaotropes, with only pure water as the binding and eluting buffers and a temperature shift to effect elution. Further, example 9 specifically teaches that the columns disclosed therein which bound DNA using NaClO₄ were tested using only pure water and the temperature shift. Several were found which functioned successfully thus, and DNA that meets the limitations of the instant claims was thus produced.

Applicant's arguments filed 30 January 2001 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Certain papers related to this application may be submitted to Art Unit 1636 by facsimile transmission. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993) and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993)(see 37 CFR § 1.6(d)). The Art Unit 1636 Fax number is (703) 305-7939. NOTE: If Applicant *does* submit a paper by fax to this number, the examiner must be notified promptly, to ensure matching of the faxed paper to the application file, and the original signed copy should be retained by Applicant

or Applicant's representative. (703) 308-4242 or (703) 305-3014 may be used without notification of the examiner, with such faxed papers being handled in the manner of mailed responses. Applicants are encouraged to use the latter two fax numbers unless immediate action by the examiner is required, e.g., during discussions of claim language for allowable subject matter. **NO DUPLICATE COPIES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED** so as to avoid the processing of duplicate papers in the Office.

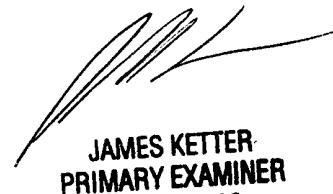
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner with respect to the examination on the merits should be directed to James Ketter whose telephone number is (703) 308-1169. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:00-6:30) Alternate Fridays Off.

Questions regarding formalities and processing of the case should be directed to Zeta Adams, whose telephone number is (703) 305-3291.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's acting supervisor, John LeGuyader, can be reached at 308-0447. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7939 for regular communications and (703) 305-7939 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 308-1234.

jsk
April 9, 2001



JAMES KETTER
PRIMARY EXAMINER